Starvation deaths

110. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were a number of starvation deaths reported from various parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to provide foodgrains free of cost to vulnerable sections dying due to starvation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No starvation death has been reported by any of the State Governments/UT Administrations during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Foodgrains are being provided to 1.5 crore poorest of the poor families under AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) at **a** highly subsidized rate of Rs. *21*- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice. For those Below Poverty Line foodgrains are being provided at a subsidized rate throughout the country. In order to ensure further food security for the vulnerable sections of the population, foodgrains are being allocated to States/UTs by different nodal Ministries/Departments free of cost under various welfare schemes. For example, for students upto primary school under Mid Day Meal Scheme 26.80 lakh tonnes was provided during 2003-04; under wheat based nutrition programme for providing nutritious food to children below 6 years and to expectant/lactating women 7.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was provided during 2003-04; under Annapoorna Anna Yojana (for indigent senior citizens) 1.23 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was provided during 2003-04.

Training centres for Medara community

111. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medara community had represented for the provision of some training centres in some areas in the South under forest protection policy;

(b) if so, the details of this demand;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to involve this community in forest protection through establishment of training centres for their livelihood; and

(d) if so, the details of such training centres set up by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, the communities, including the Medara community, living inside and on the fringes of forest areas are involved in the protection and conservation of forests through the mechanism of Joint Forest Management which also address the issue of reduction of poverty.

(d) Does not arise.

Promotion of carbon sink and carbon sequestration projects

112. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in collaboration with Community Forestry International, U.S.A. is promoting carbon sink projects and carbon sequestration projects in Harda Forest Division of Madhya Pradesh and Adilabad Forest Division of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funding agency;

(c) whether Government plan to promote similar carbon sink and carbon sequestration projects elsewhere in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No. Sir

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, since the requisite guidelines are to be finalised by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).